

# Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center



2009 Annual Report

## **Introduction to the Center**

Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center is a division of the Bureau of Land Management's High Desert District and located in the Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. Its area of responsibility is most of the southern half of the state of Wyoming. We provided services to six counties, four Bureau of Land Management Field Offices, the State of Wyoming, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Our staff is made up of a Center Manager, Assistant Center Manager, both of who are permanent full-time, and two permanent seasonal Logistical Dispatchers. The staff is supplemented during the busy summer months by seasonal dispatchers, and this year was no exception as the center hired three. For most of the summer, the Assistant Manager position was vacant, but that position was successfully filled in November of this year.

## **Overview of the Fire Season**

The 2009 season kicked off on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March with the Chevy fire which, you guessed it, was a vehicle fire involving a Chevy. This was quickly followed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March with the Crawford fire which was a 12 acre fire started by target shooting and the Croonberry Draw fire, a 35 acre human caused fire on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. While the season started off strong, it ultimately died down due to the high levels of moisture the area received. The total fires for 2009 were 66 for a total of 104.5 acres burned. This was significantly lower than the 8 year average which was 125 fires burning 8192 acres, and 2002, the worst of the past 8 years, which had 132 fires that burned 41,027 acres.

The district fuels program treated 5915 acres through mechanical, chemical and prescribed burning this year. Their goal was 5,697 acres, so the fuels staff was able to accomplish 104 percent of their target.

Resource requests were light with 190 requests for delivery to the district of which 151 were for supplies. Off district requests were light as well with engines spending a total of 102 days off district and the District's light helicopter logging 129.9 of its 134.2 total hours flown off district. There were 35 overhead requests for assignment off-district.

As mentioned above, it was a wetter than normal year with areas within the district receiving record amounts of rain. Rawlins set a new record of 16 + inches of rain, besting the 1998 record of 12.63 inches. Record keeping in Wyoming began in 1951.

Overall, as was the case with most of the Nation, fire activity was light, and requests for district resources were few.

# Fire Activity



The High Desert District covers approximately 21 million acres of which 48% or so is land owned by the Federal Government (about 10 million acres). The District's 2009 fire season consisted of 66 fires for a total of 104.5 acres burned. This was significantly less than the 8 year average which was 125 fires burning 8192.5 acres per year, and 2002, the worst of the past 8 years which had 132 fires that burned 41,027 acres. This year's fires were broken down as such: 47 lightning fires burned 25.9 acres, 17 human caused fires burned 75.2 acres and 2 fires of undetermined cause burned 3.4 acres. The center also took 47 smoke reports that ended up being false alarms.

## Noteworthy Fires

There were 5 noteworthy fires; meaning fires over 10 acres in size or with significant resource commitment, in 2009.

**Crawford Fire:** This was a fire on private land in Uinta County started by sparks created during target shooting. A total of six Uinta Engines and two water tenders responded. It was contained at 12 acres.

**Croonberg Draw Fire:** This was a human caused fire on private land in Albany County. A total of eight engines and three water tenders responded and contained the fire at 35 acres.

**Gap Creek:** This lightning caused fire was on Bureau of Land Management land approximately 28 miles SE of Rock Springs. Response for this fire was five engines, two water tenders and individual personnel. It was contained at 1.8 acres.

**Gabrielson Fire:** Farming equipment caused this 18.5 acre fire on private land in Albany County. Response to this fire was six county engines.

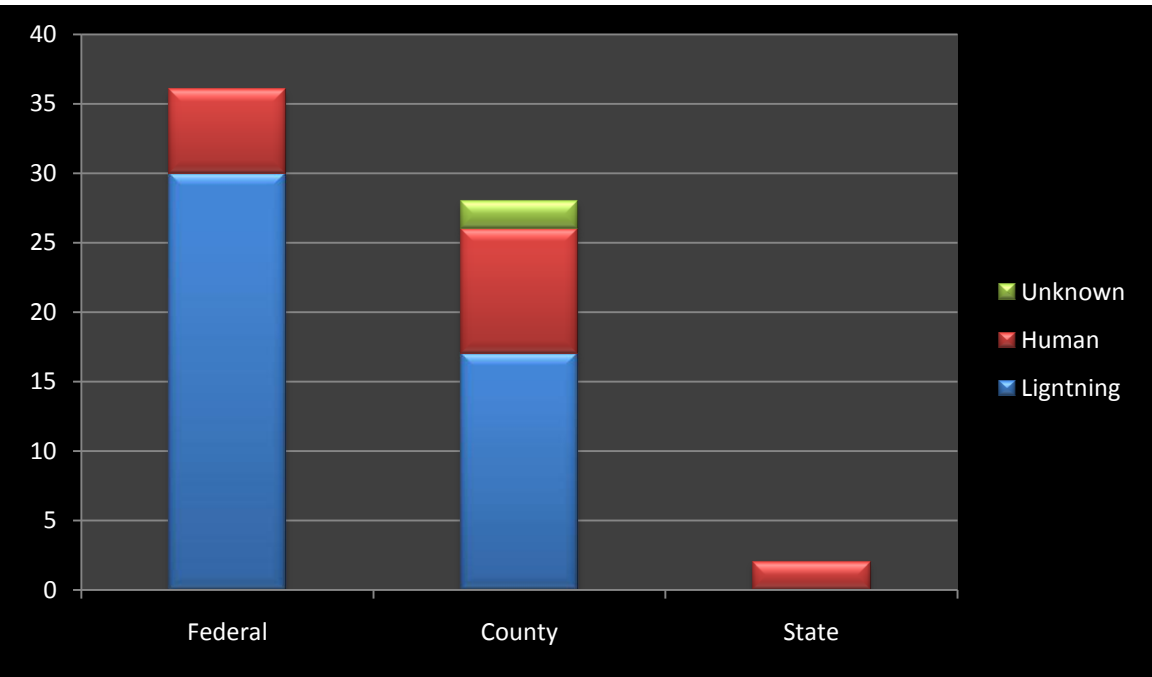
**Rock Creek Ridge Fire:** This was the most complex of the noteworthy fires. While only 3 acres in size this fire was in heavy logging slash. The response was two handcrews, two engines and the district's light helicopter. It was located on Bureau of Land Management land in Lincoln County.



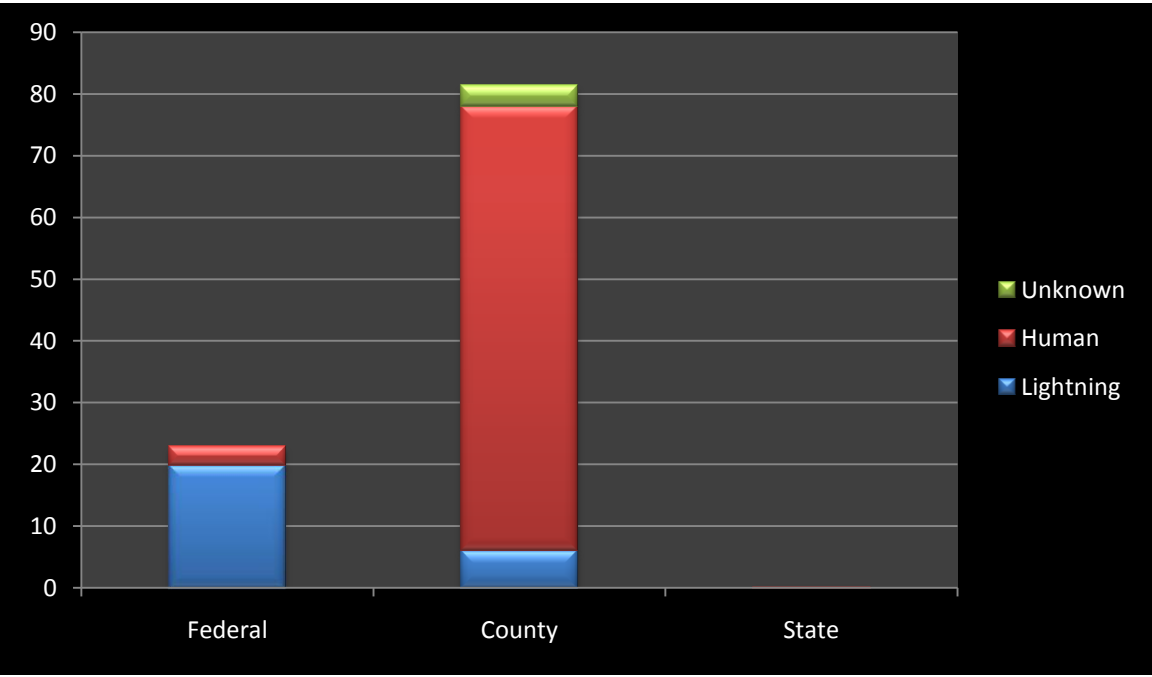
## 2009 Fire Statistics

Unit	Human		Lightning		Unknown	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Albany County	3	53.6	1	0.5	-	-
Carbon County	1	5.0	2	4.2	1	0.5
Uinta County	2	12.5	2	0.2	-	-
Sweetwater County	3	0.8	12	1.2	1	2.9
Kemmerer FO	-	-	1	3.0	-	-
Pinedale FO	-	-	2	1.6	-	-
Rawlins FO	3	0.3	3	1.7	-	-
Rock Springs FO	3	2.8	20	13.1	-	-
State of WY	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
Other Federal	-	-	4	0.4	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Agency	Human		Lightning		Unknown		Total	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Federal	6	3.1	30	19.8	-	-	36	22.9
County	9	71.9	17	6.1	2	3.4	28	81.4
State	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	2	0.2
<b>2009 Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>104.5</b>
<b>8 yr Average</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>973.5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>Unk</b>	<b>Unk</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>11,937</b>



Fire Cause by Agency



Fire Acres Burned by Agency and Cause

# Resource Order Statistics

## 2009 Resource Orders

### Aircraft Resource Orders (including subordinate requests)

Aircraft sent out of Dispatch Area	157
(All were Rawlins helicopter N173BH and crew)	
Aircraft brought in	3
1- SEAT for Severity	
1- Type 3 helo	
1- Fixed Wing Tactical	

### Overhead Resource Orders

Overhead sent out of Dispatch Area	68
Overhead brought in	22

### Equipment Resource Orders (Including subordinate requests)

Equipment sent out of Dispatch Area	65
Equipment brought in	30

### Crew Resource Orders

Crews sent out of Dispatch Area	0
Crews brought in	2
1- 20-person Type 2 IA	
1- Eleven person crew	



# District Fuels Accomplishments



The High Desert District fuels accomplishments for the 2009 year were significant considering the amount of moisture the area received. They treated 5915 acres, which was 104% of their target of 5697 acres. It should be noted that while they exceeded their target by 218 acres, acres treated through prescribed burns was actually below the target by 400 acres due weather conditions. They were able to make up for this by exceeded their acres treated through both mechanical and chemical means by 600 acres.

High Desert District 2009 Totals			
Treatment Type	Non-WUI	WUI	Total
Mechanical Acres Treated	1195	790	1985
Prescribed Burn Acres Treated	755	375	1130
Chemical Acres Treated	1250	1550	2800
Total Acres Treated	3200	2715	5915



Rock Springs Field Office			
Treatment Name	WUI/Non-WUI	Treatment Type	Acres Accomplished
191 Compressor Mowing	WUI	Mech	20
Phosphate Pumping Station Mowing	WUI	Mech	35
Rawlins Field Office			
Treatment Name	WUI/Non-WUI	Treatment Type	Acres Accomplished
Bennett Peak Weed Spraying	WUI	Chemical	50
School/Moores Creek Pile Burn II	WUI	Burn	55
Sage Creek Aspen Thinning	Non-WUI	Mech	25
Landing Strip Spike	Non-WUI	Chemical	250
Red Mountain Aspen	WUI	Mech	100
North Rasmussen Spike	Non-WUI	Chemical	1000
West Barrett	WUI	Burn	300
Pole Canyon Thinning	Non-WUI	Mech	50
Baggs Juniper hand pile	WUI	Mech	50
Cottonwood Hill Spike	WUI	Chemical	1500
Deep Creek	Non-WUI	Burn	600
Shirley Piles II	WUI	Mech	100
Pinedale Field Office			
Treatment Name	WUI/Non-WUI	Treatment Type	Acres Accomplished
Maki Creek/Red Canyon Rx	Non-WUI	Burn	155
Hoback Slash Burn	WUI	Burn	20
Hoback Thinning	WUI	Mech	75
Ryegrass Mowing	Non-WUI	Mech	200
Wyoming Front Aspen 4	Non-WUI	Mech	820
James Ryegrass Mowing	Non-WUI	Mech	100
Kemmerer Field Office			
Treatment Name	WUI/Non-WUI	Treatment Type	Acres Accomplished
Commissary Ranch Thinning	WUI	Mech	10
Commissary Ranch Handpile	WUI	Mech	10
Pine Creek Slash Piles	WUI	Mech	50
Cokeville Mowing	WUI	Mech	335
Van Tassel Post and Pole Sale	WUI	Mech	5

# Aviation



## District Aviation Statistics

**Overview:** The dispatch center performed flight following functions on 25 flights for a total of 185 hours. This did not include flight following district helicopter N173BH. There was no aviation mishaps reported in the district. However, one SAFECOM was filled, and it was determined that even though the computer systems rendered AFF inaccessible, at no time was the status and location of aircraft unknown due to the Center's policy of 15 minute check-ins via radio.

**Contract Ships:** In 2009, the High Desert District had one aircraft on contract, and that was Brainard Air's AS-350 B3 with tail number N173BH. Its contract started on 6/17 and ended on 9/14. During this time, 3BH flew a total of 134.2 hours. Of the 134.2 hours, 131.3 were flown on fire missions, and the remaining 2.9 were for training and other exercises. Of the 131.3 hours flown for fire missions, 125.9 were flown off district for other BLM Districts (92.4 hours) and the US Forest Service (33.5 Hours). Helicopter 3BH initial attacked 17 fires and performed extended attack functions on 6 others. They transported 389 personnel, moved 25,960 lbs of internal and 18,835 lbs of external cargo, and delivered 62,789 gallons of water to fires.

**Airtankers:** We had a one SEAT stationed at the newly constructed SEAT base in Rawlins, but they were only there for a day, and flew no missions.

**Reconnaissance:** There were 3 reconnaissance flights this years, 2 were associated with fires, and the other a recon before fuels reduction spraying. These flights totaled approximately 9 hours of flight time.

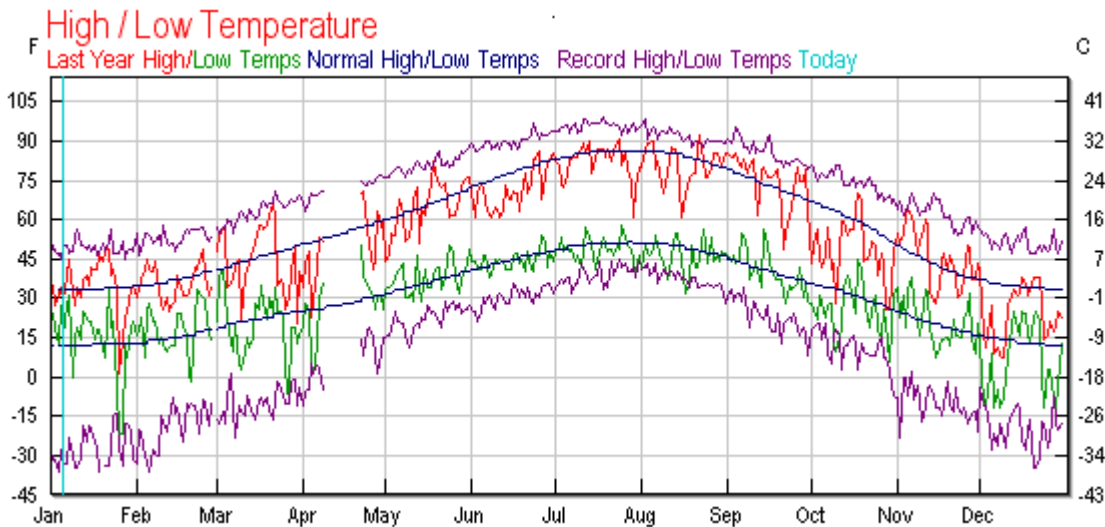
**Special Use Flights:** There were 18 special use flights in 2009; 10 Grouse survey flights, 3 wild horse survey flights, and one each for fall spike, livestock, forest health, mapping, and repeater repair. These flights totaled a little over 154 hours of flight time.

**Flight Following:** There were 4 flights though the district where we were asked to assist in the flight following. Of the 4 flights, 3 were ferry flights, and 1 was a Homeland Security flight. Their total flight time was 22 hours.

# Weather



This year was wetter than normal and this was obvious by our light fire season. By mid November, Rawlins, Wyoming, had received 15.31 inches of precipitation beating the former record of 12.63 set in 1998. The average rainfall for this area is 9.6 inches. The average temperature for 2009 was one degree cooler for the District than is normal.



2009 Temperatures for Rawlins, Wyoming

## THE RAWLINS WY AIRPORT CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR OF 2009

CLIMATE NORMAL PERIOD 1971 TO 2000

CLIMATE RECORD PERIOD 1951 TO 2010

WEATHER	OBSERVED VALUE	DATE(S)	NORMAL VALUE	DEPART FROM NORMAL	LAST YEAR'S VALUE
---------	-------------------	---------	-----------------	--------------------------	----------------------

### TEMPERATURE (F)

#### RECORD

HIGH	99	07/18/1998			
------	----	------------	--	--	--

LOW	-36	02/06/1989			
-----	-----	------------	--	--	--

	-36	01/04/1973			
--	-----	------------	--	--	--

	-36	01/19/1963			
--	-----	------------	--	--	--

HIGHEST	92	08/22	MM	MM	95
---------	----	-------	----	----	----

LOWEST	-22	01/27	MM	MM	-19
--------	-----	-------	----	----	-----

	-22	01/26			
--	-----	-------	--	--	--

AVG. MAXIMUM	54.6		58.0	-3.4	54.2
--------------	------	--	------	------	------

AVG. MINIMUM	28.9		30.4	-1.5	28.6
--------------	------	--	------	------	------

MEAN	41.7		44.2	-2.5	41.4
------	------	--	------	------	------

DAYS MAX >= 90	4		MM	MM	12
----------------	---	--	----	----	----

DAYS MAX <= 32	60		MM	MM	72
----------------	----	--	----	----	----

DAYS MIN <= 32	199		MM	MM	204
----------------	-----	--	----	----	-----

DAYS MIN <= 0	20		MM	MM	17
---------------	----	--	----	----	----

### PRECIPITATION (INCHES) \*\*\*\* January through November totals\*\*\*\*

#### RECORD

MAXIMUM	15.49	2009			
---------	-------	------	--	--	--

MINIMUM	3.24	2002			
---------	------	------	--	--	--

TOTALS	15.49R		9.74	5.75	9.84
--------	--------	--	------	------	------

DAYS >= .01	99		MM	MM	77
-------------	----	--	----	----	----

DAYS >= .10	45		MM	MM	27
-------------	----	--	----	----	----

DAYS >= .50	7		MM	MM	3
-------------	---	--	----	----	---

DAYS >= 1.00	0		MM	MM	0
--------------	---	--	----	----	---

#### GREATEST

24 HR. TOTAL	0.95	04/24-25			
--------------	------	----------	--	--	--

### DEGREE\_DAYS

HEATING TOTAL	8480		7885	595	8783
---------------	------	--	------	-----	------

SINCE 7/1	3706		3219	487	3243
-----------	------	--	------	-----	------

COOLING TOTAL	107		282	-175	242
---------------	-----	--	-----	------	-----

SINCE 1/1	107		282	-175	242
-----------	-----	--	-----	------	-----

### WIND (MPH)

AVERAGE WIND SPEED			11.4		
--------------------	--	--	------	--	--

HIGHEST WIND SPEED/DIRECTION			48/290	DATE	01/07
------------------------------	--	--	--------	------	-------

HIGHEST GUST SPEED/DIRECTION			63/280	DATE	08/03
------------------------------	--	--	--------	------	-------

### AVERAGE RH (PERCENT)

57

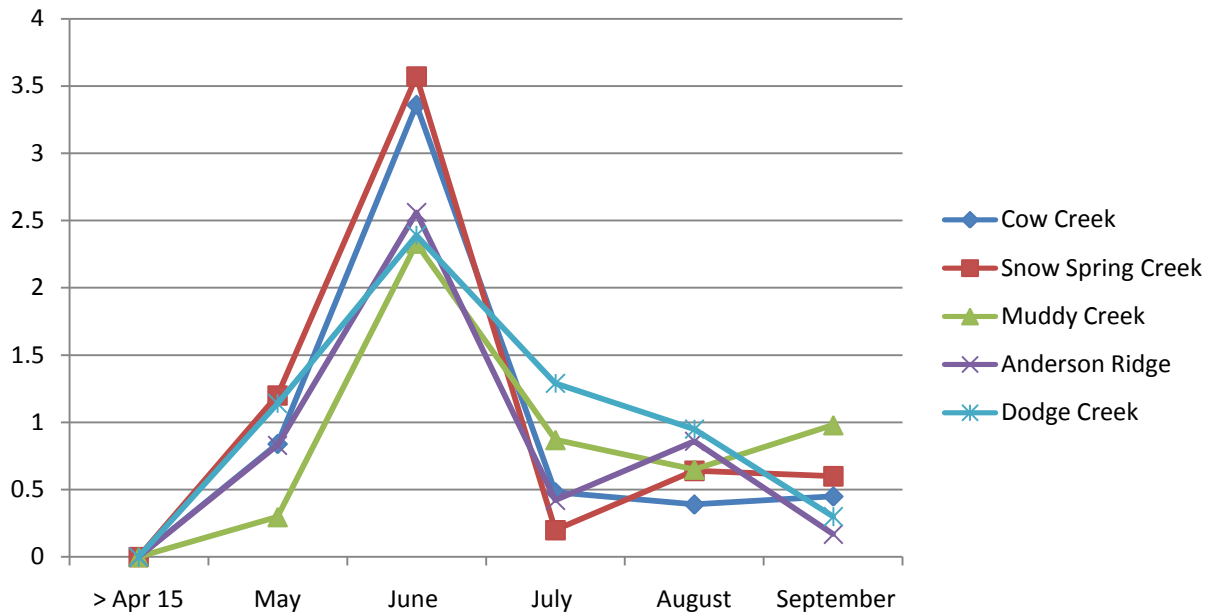
- INDICATES NEGATIVE NUMBERS.

R INDICATES RECORD WAS SET OR TIED.

MM INDICATES DATA IS MISSING.

T INDICATES TRACE AMOUNT.

## RAWS Precip 2009



	Precipitation on RAWS			Monthly Totals			
	> Apr 15	May	June	July	August	September	Totals
Cow Creek	0	0.84	3.36	0.48	0.39	0.45	<b>5.52</b>
Snow Spring Creek	0	1.20	3.57	0.20	0.64	0.6	<b>6.21</b>
Muddy Creek	0	0.30	2.33	0.87	0.65	0.98	<b>5.13</b>
Anderson Ridge	0	0.83	2.56	0.42	0.86	0.17	<b>4.84</b>
Dodge Creek	0	1.14	2.39	1.29	0.95	0.3	<b>6.07</b>



